

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the present application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending herein. Claims 1-9 are allowed. Claims 10-19 are rejected. Claims 10-16 are amended herein. Unless an argument is made in support of the patentability of each of these claims over prior art of record in light of a change to the claim, the changes to the claims do not relate to patentability.

Specification/Drawings

In response to the objections to the specification and drawings, proposed revised Figs. 3.1 and 3.2 are submitted herewith in which the executive software is labeled consistently with reference numeral 38 and the third party software is labeled consistently with reference numeral 40.

In view of the submission of proposed revised Figs. 3.1 and 3.2, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections to the specification and drawings have been overcome and should be removed.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 10-12 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, in view of informalities in independent claims 10 and 14.

Claim 10 is amended to clarify that a file of attenuator values is formed and different equipment is used depending on the attenuator values in the file. Thus, when the attenuator values in the file are all less than or equal to 50 dB, only the network analyzer is used, when the attenuator values in the file are all above 50 dB, only the calibration receiver and the down-converter are used and when at least one of the attenuator values in the file is above 50 dB and at least one of the attenuator values in the file is less than or equal to 50 dB, the network analyzer, the calibration receiver and the down-converter are used. Thus, there is no longer an ambiguity regarding attenuator values at all but 50 dB.

Claim 14 is amended to clarify that steps are undertaken depending on when an attenuator value being tested is less than or equal to 50 dB or alternatively, greater than 50 dB. The term "dB" accurately reflects the unit for attenuator values.

In view of the changes to claims 10 and 14, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 10-12 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been overcome and should be removed.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by TEGAM Application Note 213 entitled “SWR/Return Loss Measurements Using System IIA” (the TEGAM publication).

The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed on the grounds that the TEGAM publication does not disclose a method for measuring standing wave ratio (SWR) of an attenuator including all of the features of claim 13.

Claim 13 now recites that SWR of an attenuator is measured by forming a file of attenuator values to be used in the test, connecting a device under test (DUT) having two ports directly to a network analyzer such that the network analyzer is connected to both ports of the DUT and thereby obviating the use of a bridge to couple the DUT to the network analyzer; and sequentially testing each attenuator value by directing an input stimulus signal from the network analyzer to the DUT and receiving and measuring output signals from the DUT at the network analyzer.

In this embodiment of the invention, the DUT 22 has two ports and the VNA 24 is coupled to both of them (see Fig. 2 and the specification at page 6, lines 4-6). Among other things, this coupling of the DUT to the VNA enables SWR testing of an attenuator without bridges (see the specification at page 3, lines 24-28). An advantage achieved by means of this coupling is that the VNA 24 can be adapted to the DUT 22 via a holding fixture and a cable set that maintains its amplitude stability as well as its phase stability over critical bend angles. This removes cabling uncertainties that can affect the accuracy of the measurement and measurement repeatability in general.

The TEGAM publication does not disclose coupling a DUT to a VNA in the same manner as set forth in claim 13.

In the SWR measurement configuration shown in the TEGAM publication (Fig. 2), there is a return loss bridge interposed between the signal source (Model 4380) and the frequency converter (Model 8852). The DUT is connected to this return loss bridge for SWR testing thereof. The TEGAM publication does not mention any manner for coupling the DUT to the components while avoiding the use of the return loss bridge.

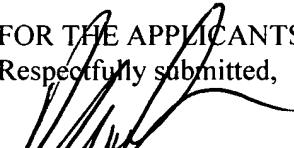
As such, the TEGAM publication does not disclose all of the features of claim 13 and therefore cannot anticipate or render obvious the embodiment of the invention set forth in this claim.

In view of the changes to claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner’s rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by the TEGAM publication has been overcome and should be removed.

Petition for Extension

Applicants hereby petition for a one-month extension of time to extend the time for response to the Office Action for one month from September 15, 2005 to October 15, 2005. A Form 2038 for payment of the petition fee of \$60.00, applicants having qualified for small entity status, is enclosed.

An early and favorable action on the merits upon entry and consideration of this amendment is earnestly solicited.

FOR THE APPLICANTS
Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 3.1 and 3.2. The sheet which includes Figs. 1 and 3.1 replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 3.1 and the sheet including Fig. 3.2 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3.2. In Fig. 3.1, the designation of the executive software is changed from “40” to “38” and the designation of the third party software is changed from “38” to “40”. In Fig. 3.2, the designation of the executive software is changed from “40” to “38”.

Attachments: Two Replacement Sheets

Two Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

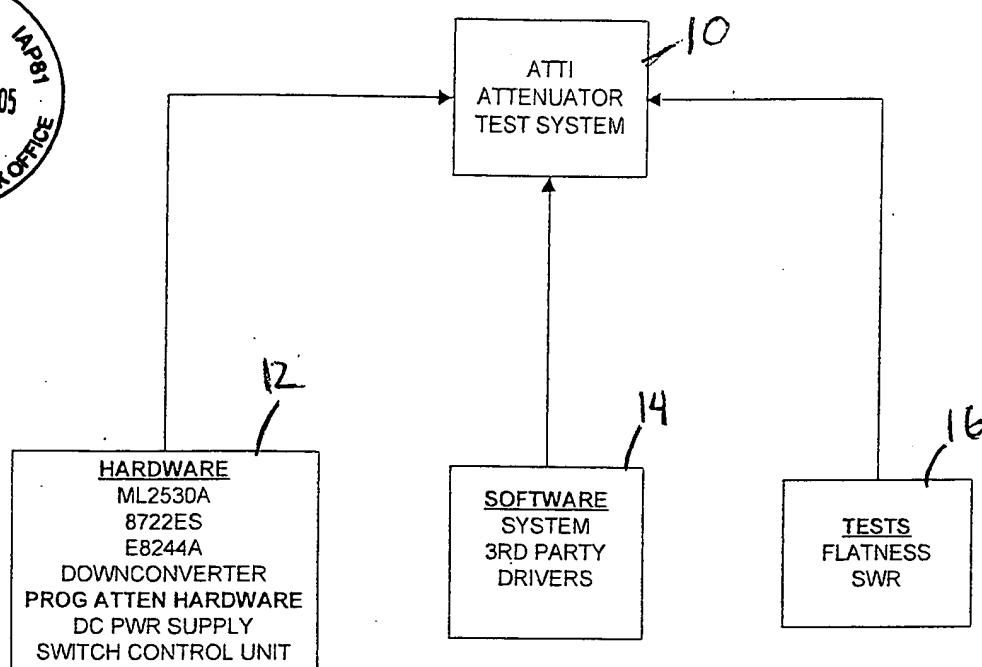
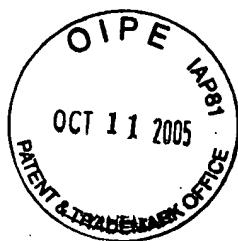


Figure 1 - Z2002A Attenuator Test System Plan

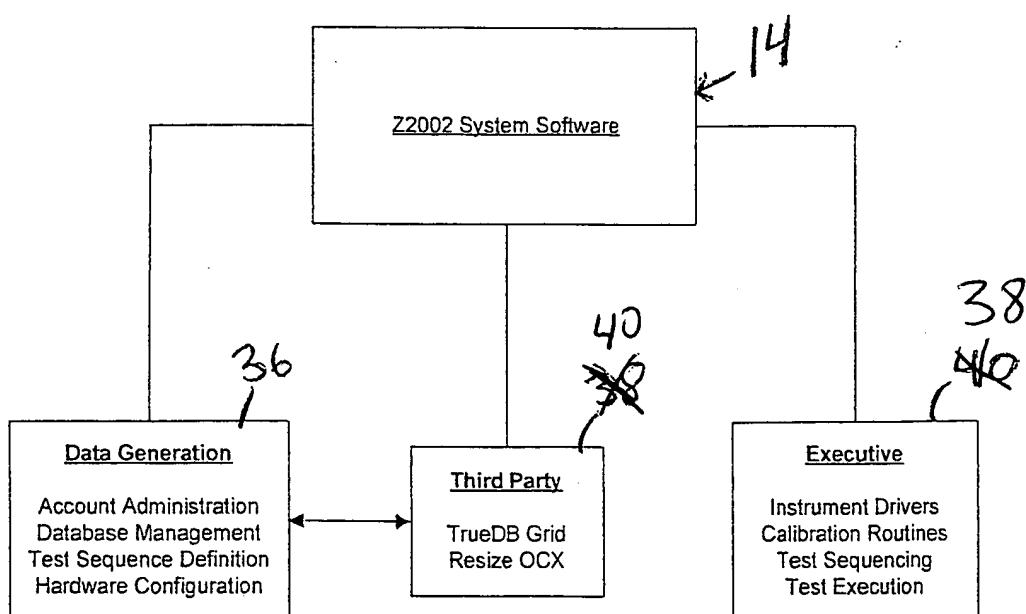


Figure 3.1 - Z2002A Software Block Diagram

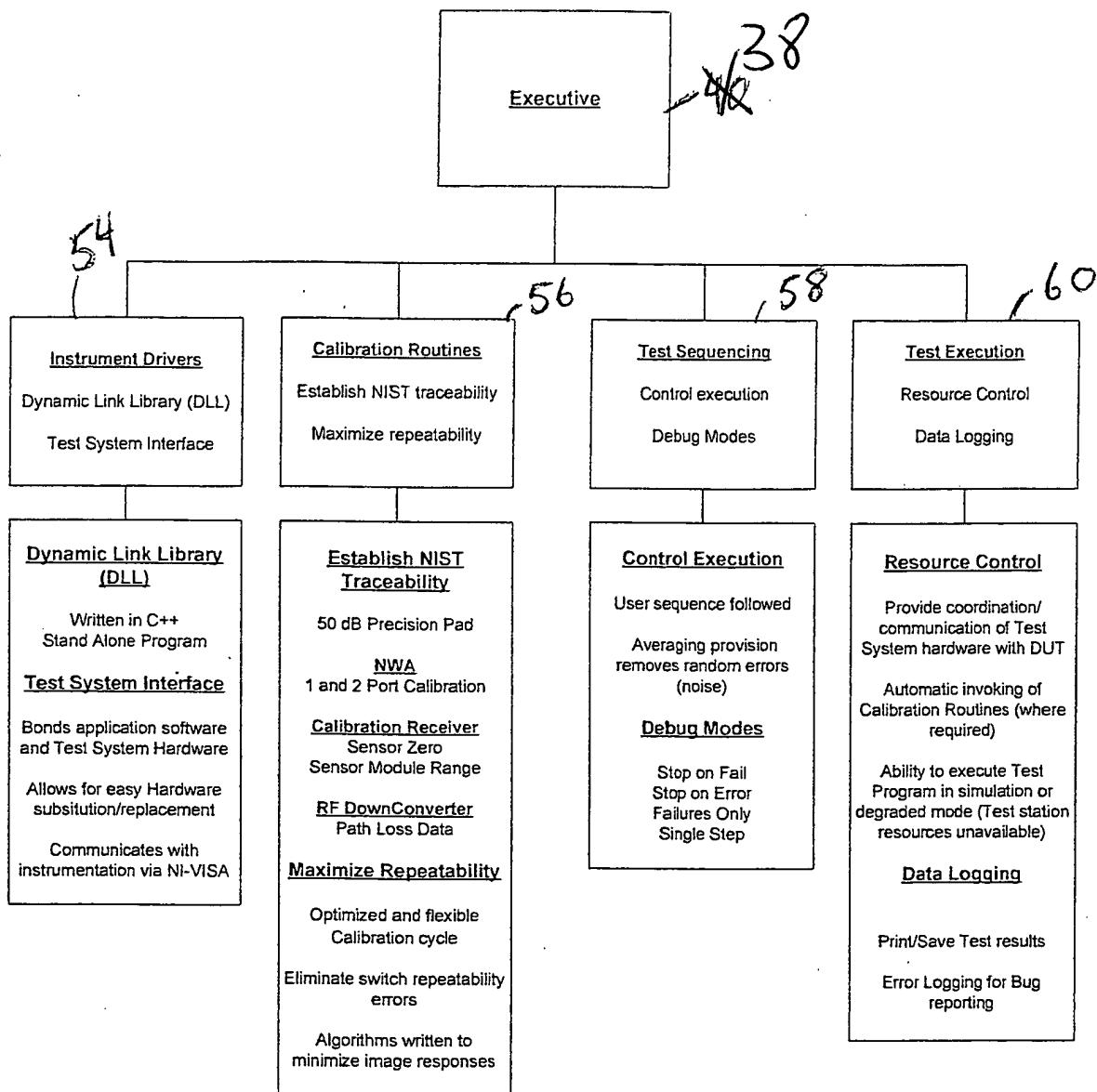


Figure 3.2 - Z2002A Executive Block Diagram